

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1 1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for a network device to claim ownership of  
2 a disk in a network storage system comprising the steps of:  
3       setting a first ownership attribute on the disk to a state of ownership by the net-  
4 work device; and  
5       setting a second ownership attribute on the disk to a state of ownership by the net-  
6 work device.
- 1 2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the first ownership attribute and  
2 the second ownership attribute further comprises a small computer system interface level  
3 3 persistent reservation tag.
- 1 3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the first ownership attribute and  
2 the second ownership attribute further comprises ownership information written on a pre-  
3 determined area of the disk.
- 1 4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, wherein the ownership information further  
2 comprises a serial number of the network device.
- 1 5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the network device comprises a file  
2 server.

1 6. (ORIGINAL) A method of claiming ownership of a disk by a network device in a  
2 network storage system comprising the steps of:  
3 writing ownership information to a predetermined area of the disk; and  
4 setting a small computer system interface level 3 persistent reservation tag to a  
5 state of network device ownership.

1 7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 6 wherein the ownership information further com-  
2 prises a serial number of a network device.

1 8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 6, wherein the network device comprises a file  
2 server.

1 9. (ORIGINAL) A network storage system comprising:  
2 a plurality of network devices;  
3 one or more switches, each network device connected to at least one of the one or  
4 more switch; and  
5 a plurality of disks having a first ownership attribute and a second ownership at-  
6 tribute, each disk connected to at least one of the plurality of switches.

1 10. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the first ownership  
2 attribute further comprises ownership information written on a predetermined area of the  
3 disk.

1 11. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the second ownership  
2 attribute further comprises a small computer system interface level 3 persistent reserva-  
3 tion tag.

1 12. (ORIGINAL) The networked storage system of claim 11, wherein each disk that is  
2 owned by the network device has the small computer system interface level 3 persistent  
3 reservation set such that only the network device may write to the disk.

1 13. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 10, wherein the ownership in-  
2 formation further comprises of a serial number of the network device that owns that par-  
3 ticular disk.

1 14. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 10, wherein each of the plurality  
2 of file servers can read data from each of the plurality of disks.

1 15. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 10, wherein only a network de-  
2 vice that owns one of the plurality of disks can write data to the one disk.

1 16. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the network devices  
2 comprise file servers.

1 17. (ORIGINAL) A network storage system comprising:  
2 one or more switches;

3 a plurality of disks; and  
4 a plurality of network devices, each of the network devices including means for  
5 claiming ownership of one of the plurality of disks in the network storage system.

1 18. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 17, wherein the means for claim-  
2 ing ownership further comprises:

3 means for writing ownership information to a predetermined area of a disk; and  
4 means for setting a small computer system interface level 3 persistent reservation  
5 on a disk.

1 19. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 17, wherein the network devices  
2 comprise file servers.

1 20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A network storage system comprising:  
2 one or more switches interconnected to form a switching fabric;  
3 a plurality of disks, each of the disks connected to at least one of the switches,  
4 each disk storing a first ownership attribute and a second ownership attribute; and  
5 one or more network devices, interconnected with the switching fabric, each of  
6 the network devices being adapted to own a predetermined set of disks of the plurality of  
7 disks through use of the first and second ownership attributes.

21. (CANCELLED)

1 22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The network storage system of claim 20, wherein  
2 the first ownership attribute is ownership information written to a predetermined area of  
3 each of the disks.

1 23. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 22, wherein the ownership in-  
2 formation further comprises a serial number of one of the one or more network devices.

1 24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The network storage system of claim 20, wherein  
2 the second ownership information is a small computer system interface level 3 persistent  
3 reservation.

1 25. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 20, wherein each of the network  
2 devices further comprises a disk ownership table, the disk ownership table containing  
3 ownership data for each of the disks.

1 26. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 25, wherein the ownership table  
2 further comprises a world wide name for each of the disks, the world wide name being  
3 used for identification of each of the disks.

1 27. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium, including program instructions execut-  
2 ing on network device, for performing the steps of:  
3 writing ownership information to a predetermined area of a disk; and  
4 setting a small computer system interface level 3 persistent reservation tag to a  
5 state of network device ownership.

1 28. (NEW) A method for a network device to manage ownership of one or more storage  
2 devices in a network storage system, comprising the steps of:  
3 reading ownership information from a predetermined area of each storage device;  
4 in response to reading the ownership information, creating an ownership table that  
5 identifies the one or more storage devices owned by the network device;  
6 reading a small computer system interface (SCSI) level 3 persistent reservation  
7 tag from each storage device;  
8 comparing the SCSI level 3 persistent reservation tag to the ownership informa-  
9 tion of the same storage device and, if there is not a match, changing the SCSI level 3  
10 persistent reservation tag to match the ownership information; and  
11 configuring the one or more storage devices identified in the ownership table into  
12 at least one volume for use by the network device.

1 29. (NEW) The method of claim 28 further comprising:  
2 setting ownership information at the predetermined area of each storage device:

1 30. (NEW) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of configuring further comprises:  
2 organizing the one or more storage devices into at least one Redundant Array of  
3 Independent Disks (RAID) group.

1 31. (NEW) The method of claim 28 further comprising:  
2 wherein the predetermined area of the one or more storage devices is sector zero  
3 of the one or more storage devices.

1 32. (NEW) The method of claim 28 further comprising:  
2 wherein the ownership information is a serial number of the network device that  
3 owns that particular storage device.

1 33. (NEW) The method of claim 28 further comprising:  
2 wherein the ownership table includes a world wide name for each of the storage  
3 devices, the world wide name being used to identify each of the storage devices.

1 34. (NEW) A network device for managing ownership of one or more storage devices in  
2 a network storage system, comprising the steps of:  
3 means for reading ownership information from a predetermined area of each stor-  
4 age device;  
5 in response to reading the ownership information, means for creating an owner-  
6 ship table that identifies the one or more storage devices owned by the network device;  
7 means for reading a small computer system interface (SCSI) level 3 persistent res-  
8 ervation tag from each storage device;  
9 means for comparing the SCSI level 3 persistent reservation tag to the ownership  
10 information of the same storage device and, if there is not a match, changing the SCSI  
11 level 3 persistent reservation tag to match the ownership information; and  
12 means for configuring the one or more storage devices identified in the ownership  
13 table into at least one volume for use by the network device.

1 35. (NEW) A computer readable medium containing executable program instructions for  
2 managing ownership of one or more storage devices in a network storage system, the ex-  
3 ecutable program instructions comprising program instructions for:

4 reading ownership information from a predetermined area of each storage device;  
5 in response to reading the ownership information, creating an ownership table that  
6 identifies the one or more storage devices owned by the network device;  
7 reading a small computer system interface (SCSI) level 3 persistent reservation  
8 tag from each storage device;  
9 comparing the SCSI level 3 persistent reservation tag to the ownership informa-  
10 tion of the same storage device and, if there is not a match, changing the SCSI level 3  
11 persistent reservation tag to match the ownership information; and  
12 configuring the one or more storage devices identified in the ownership table into  
13 at least one volume for use by the network device.

1 36. (NEW) A network storage system, comprising:  
2 one or more storage devices, each storage device having a predetermined area for  
3 storing ownership information and each storage device having a small computer system  
4 interface (SCSI) level 3 persistent reservation tag;  
5 at least one network device having an ownership table constructed based upon  
6 the ownership information from each storage device;  
7 the at least one network device having an ownership layer for comparing the SCSI  
8 level 3 persistent reservation tag to the ownership information of the same storage device  
9 and, if there is not a match, changing the SCSI level 3 persistent reservation tag to match  
10 the ownership information; and  
1 the at least one network device having a disk storage layer for configuring the one  
2 or more storage devices identified in the ownership table into at least one volume for use  
3 by the network device.

1 37. (NEW) The network storage system of claim 36 further comprising:



2           the ownership layer adapted to set ownership information at the predetermined  
3   area of each storage device.

1   38. (NEW) The network storage system of claim 36 further comprising:  
2           the disk storage layer organizing the one or more storage devices into at least one  
3   Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) group.

1   39. (NEW) The network storage system of claim 36 further comprising:  
2           wherein the predetermined area of the one or more storage devices is sector zero  
3   of the one or more storage devices.

1   40. (NEW) The network storage system of claim 36 further comprising:  
2           wherein the ownership information is a serial number of the network device that  
3   owns that particular storage device.

1   41. (NEW) The network storage system of claim 36 further comprising:  
2           wherein the ownership table includes a world wide name for each of the storage  
3   devices, the world wide name being used to identify each of the storage devices.